From: John Jacobs
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 4:16pm
Subject: My opinion on the Microsoft Settlement...

I have been a computer programmer for about 6 years.
I have formed an opinion on Microsoft:

In my opinion, that Microsoft unfairly monopolizes the
market for home-based operating systems is OBVIOUS.

But in case it isn't, here's why I believe it:
Machines are sold with Microsoft OS's already
installed, including Outlook and Internet Explorer;

installation/upgrade of Internet Explorer arrogantly
defaults your home (start) page to the microsoft web
site;

Microsoft's email client, outlook, is also installed
with Internet Explorer;

Internet Explorer uses the same system DLLs as the
File Explorer (this means that if you try to uninstall
Internet Explorer, you may have to reinstall your
entire operating system, so entrenched is Internet
Explorer in the Windows OS's);

Microsoft is just patching up formerly bad operating
systems and getting them to market yearly (windows
2000 was based on NT, 98 was based on 95, which was
loosely based on Windows 3.11);

Microsoft has consistently stolen ideas from other,
more innovative companies, notably Apple, Netscape,
and AOL (even though it may be legal, this establishes
Microsoft's bad character). It continues to do this
to this very day, stealing Java as J++, and confusing
the whole world with what Java, Javascript, and J++
are, just in case you might go in wanting Java and
leave, confused, with J++.

That's the hardest evidence for why I dislike
Microsoft and would like to see it broken up. The
rest of the reasons I dislike Microsoft are just
feelings that I have, and I don't have any hard
evidence to back these up:

I get the feeling when using Microsoft products that

Microsoft knows 'better' than you. There is an
arrogant and insulting tincture to applications like
Word.

As far as developer applications, I never get the
feeling that I'm using a quality product on an
efficient operating system. I wonder if allowing for
competition within the operating system market might
make products better. And I don't mean a little
better, I mean a LOT better.

I'd like to see it broken up, true, but I don't
believe in litigation. All solutions are in
education. If people are made aware of Microsoft's
blatant attempt to monopolize the industry; if people
are exposed to quality in other operating systems,
etc., they will choose non-Microsoft products out of
natural choice. Companies such as Apple, Sun, and
Netscape, etc. need to be forming partnerships that
give them a better competitive edge against Microsoft.

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